

## Chanukah Bash To Be Biggest & Best Of All

The Congregation's Annual Chanukah Festival and Latke Party will be celebrated at a new location this year, and it promises to be the biggest and best in Sha'ar Zahav's history. The evening will be highlighted by live entertainment, outstanding refreshments and a record number of prizes will be given during the Chanukah Raffle drawing.

Make sure the date is marked on your calendar! Saturday evening, December 22, beginning at 8 p.m. Members of Sha'ar Zahav, their friends and guests, will be at the San Francisco Medical Society Building, 250 Masonic Avenue in San Francisco — between Turk and Anza, with parking available nearby. This brand new, grand new location will be another exciting plus for this year's festivities.

The live band, which goes by Subject to Change, has promised us dance music of all persuasions. And of course, thousands of latkes — produced from a closely guarded ancient recipe — will be served to all in attendance. Beer and wine will be available.

As in the past, there will be no admission charge to our Chanukah Bash, and all members are encouraged to invite guests and friends to the event. Also, this is definitely not an evening for babysitters — children are very welcome.

Everyone is also invited to bring along their Chanukah Menorah from home, as we will have a group congregational candle lighting. Since this is the fifth night of Chanukah, the collective light of all our menorahs should be wonderful.

The Chanukah Raffle — another Sha'ar Zahav tradition — has been revived this year. A related article details some of the fabulous prizes being offered this year. Tickets are of course available for sale now, and will be sold up until the final drawing for First Prize that night. All proceeds from the raffle help support the good works of our congregation, including our many ritual, educational and social service activities. The Chanukah Raffle represents



Silver dreidel, Poland, 19th century.  
Jerusalem, Israel Museum.

## Prizes, Prizes, Prizes

If you haven't bought your Chanukah raffle tickets yet, buy them now. If you have, buy more — and sell more. This fundraiser for the Congregation features many exciting gifts. The big four prizes have already been publicized:

- First Prize — a 3-day trip to San Diego for two, provided courtesy of Westwind Travel;
- Second Prize — a \$250 gift certificate at City Island Clothing;
- Third Prize — a weekend for two at the Claremont Resort in the Oakland hills; and
- Fourth Prize — a week's vacation at a Russian River cabin

The many other prizes to be given out at the drawing at our Chanukah Party on Saturday evening, December 22 include: wine glasses from the Obelisk; gift certificates from All That Jazz & Lenny's Linen Closet; dinners at Ivy's, Luisa's and

(Continued on page 8)

## The Famine in Ethiopia: How We Can Help

*Is this not the fast I have chosen: to share your bread with the hungry!*

For several years our Congregation has been involved in the rescue of our Jewish sisters and brothers from Ethiopia. We all remember the joy and pride we felt last October when we heard that through our efforts 62 year old Bezabesh Werku had been brought home to Israel.

Now a terrible famine ravages Ethiopia. Millions of people, Jews and non-Jews, are faced with starvation. We must help!

Through a campaign coordinated by the Jewish Community Relations Council, the Jewish community of the Bay Area is joining in the national interfaith effort to provide food for starving people in Ethiopia and other parts of Africa.

In response to this appeal, Sha'ar Zahav's Va'ad voted at their November meeting to send a contribution of \$180 to the JCRC toward this campaign. In addition, at Shabbat services on Friday, December 12, the pushke will be dedicated to providing an additional donation from our congregation to this urgent appeal.

Individual contributions can also be sent to the Jewish Community Federation, 121 Steuart St., San Francisco 94105; to the Joint Distribution Committee, Suite 1914, Dept. M., 60 E. 42nd St., New York 10165; or to the Interfaith Hunger Appeal, Box 1000 F.D.R. Station, New York 10165.

*And if you share yourself with those that hunger — then your light will rise in darkness — and even your gloom will shine like midday*

(Continued on page 5)

## President's Column

This month something entirely different. In my other life, the one not consumed by Sha'ar Zahav (yes, my dears, there is life after synagogue), I sometimes write book reviews. The one that follows, which I think will be of interest to Gaily Forward readers, was published in the San Francisco Chronicle-Examiner on July 22, 1984. In the vita that followed the review I was identified as "...president of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, a Reform synagogue in San Francisco."

**Marek and Lisa**  
By Henia Karmel-Wolfe  
Dodd, Mead;

No novel about the Holocaust, or its survivors, is an easy read — the better the book, the more believable the story and the more painful the reading experience. "Marek and Lisa," the story of two young survivors, is hard to read but worth it.

The tale begins as the war is ending. Lisa lies badly wounded and mentally confused in a hospital ward with other survivors. Slowly, in confused bits, realization and memories return. On a forced march, she has been shot by a Nazi guard for stepping out of line to pick up a scrap of food.

As mental acuity returns, she recalls her life before and during the war in a series of disconnected but powerful episodes: her childhood and family life in Poland, meeting and falling in love with Marek, their decision to marry rather than be separated when the Nazis order Marek to be deported from Krakow, their life together trying to pass as "Aryans" using forged papers. Then the ultimate horror when, their charade uncovered by an informer, they are reported to the Gestapo, arrested and separated.

Lisa's concentration camp experiences are recounted in random memories of horror and degradation. Through the first half of the book we come to know and care for Lisa, once a whole and wholesome person now fragmented and nearly destroyed both mentally and physically. Slowly she recovers enough to think, "It feels good to be alive." But she cannot yet face the hope that Marek too may have survived.

But Marek has survived his labor camp ordeals. Physically able, mentally embittered and emotionally empty, he wanders Europe aimlessly: "The bastardized territories, neither German nor Polish, suited his mood of unreality, the prevailing chaos fitting his inner turmoil." His one belief is that Lisa is alive, but this too finally fades when he can find no trace of her beyond the day she was shot in a field and left there, "either dying or already dead."

Separately, Lisa and Marek try to find ways to put meaning back into their lives, to find reasons to exist and value in the effort. Lisa takes a job. Marek becomes active in efforts to get Jews into Palestine. But each is without fire or vitality. Then, more through happenstance than as the result of their efforts, each learns that the other is alive. The novel now becomes a cliff-hanger. Can they track each other down

on a devastated continent where records don't exist and information is fragmented and unreliable?

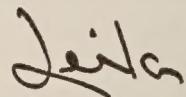
From the outset the author's style is spare, tight and without sentimentality. The intensity of the devastation, the impact of the horror, the process from emptiness to recovery are conveyed in a gemlike series of passages, each valuable in itself, artfully and with great simplicity strung together on threads of memory, experience and thought. To this point in the book, and somewhat beyond, the reader is enthralled, held in a state of tension, anger and hope, by the powerful dramatic simplicity of Karmel-Wolfe's writing. But the emerging characterizations, so promising in the first half of the book, are left incomplete. So at the last the book is disappointing, frustrating the reader with promise unfulfilled.

But it is far from unworthy; the philosophical and human dilemmas raised are extremely compelling. That Karmel-Wolfe offers no answers beyond the individual leaves the thoughtful reader with much to consider.

\* \* \*

This issue of the Forward marks the halfway point in my term of office. I would like to know how you think the year is progressing. Please share your ideas. Write to me, talk to me. If you're worried that making a suggestion may lead to your getting more involved, you're probably right. But trust me, the more you give the more you get. I say it over and over, because I believe it. Together we make it all happen!

Shalom,



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Members of the Congregation receive *The Forward*. For a donation of \$10/year, nonmembers will receive *The Forward*.

All newsletter copy should be typed, double-spaced and is due on the 10th of the month. It should be sent to the Synagogue office, marked to the attention of *The Forward*.

Members of the Newsletter Committee are: Alex Ingersoll (editor); Bob Goldware, Stephanie Hannaford, Irene O'Gus, Marilyn O'Keeffe and Leila Raim (editorial and production); Allan Berenstein, Frank Hyman, Ben Schalit, Barry Siegel, Sam Thal and Alita Rosenfeld (distribution). *The Forward* is typeset by En Character and printed by Lou Greene.

**Display Ads** are \$15 per column inch for non-members and \$10 per column inch for members, with a frequency discount of 10% for six or more issues. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

**Classified Ads** are \$5.00 for up to 20 words, plus \$1.00 for each 10 additional words.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, marked attention *Forward* advertising. The advertising deadline is the 10th of the month. *The Forward* reserves the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste. For more information on advertising rates and charges, call the Synagogue Office at 861-6932.

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## The Real Chanukah

It's time for Chanukah to come out of the closet. We regard it as a holiday for children, full of dreidels and candles and songs and chanukah gelt. It's our American-Jewish answer to, substitute for, and refuge from the inexorable onslaught of Christmas. Most Jews would not recognize it as the commemoration of the victory of a fanatic religious minority over the complacent, assimilated majority of Jews. Most Jews would not associate it with the probably-first-ever civil rights struggle in history. But that's what it really is all about.

Chanukah doesn't have much religious significance, it's true, but what it lacks, it makes up for in stunning political impact. The Talmudic rabbis were very careful with what they wrote about it, for two reasons. First, in the times and places in which they lived, it was necessary to soft pedal a holiday that celebrated bloody revolution against a foreign tyrant. Second, the descendants of the Maccabees broke the ancient laws separating the kingship from the priesthood, and ironically, became more hellenized than the Hellenists against whom their forebears struggled. Rather than glorify the exploits of the Maccabees, with whom they disagreed, the rabbis chose a pagan custom practiced by many Jews, the lighting of candles in mid-winter, and Judaized it by tying it in with Chanukah, thereby subtly changing the focus of the story, and diffusing potentially dangerous interest in the Maccabees.

It's easy to understand how and why the story of Chanukah reached us as it did, with its miracles and easy heroes and villains. But we, in our relatively safe time and place, need to examine its real historical and political significance. We tend to think of the struggle being the Jews against Antiochus and his armies, when the real conflict was between a tiny minority of the Jews, some motivated by nationalism and some by religious orthodoxy, and their assimilated co-religionists who had no interest in fighting to preserve the religion of their ancestors. The concept of assimilation is, or at least should be, one of concern to us. Our dress, speech and actions are indistinguishable from that of non-Jewish Americans, and the only thing that keeps us from assimilating entirely is our will — individual and collective — not to do so.

As for Antiochus, he was not an anti-Semite who particularly wanted the Jewish religion rubbed out. He was a conqueror



Brass lamp from Cochin, 18th century. Tel Aviv, Einhorn Collection.

who, for his own political reasons, wanted his subjects to have a uniform way of worshipping. And the Maccabees did not rebel against Antiochus as a ruler, but as an interloper in their cultural and religious way of life. Historian Theodore Gaster states:

...Hanukkah commemorates and celebrates the first serious attempt in history to proclaim and champion the principle of religio-cultural diversity in the nation... what was really being defended was the principle that in a diversified society the function of the state is to embrace, not subordinate, the various constituent cultures, and that the complexion and character of the state must be determined by a natural process of fusion on the one hand and selection on the other, and not by the arbitrary imposition of a single pattern on all elements.

(T.H. Gaster, Festivals of the Jewish Year, Morrow Quill Paperbacks, [New York, 1978] p. 244.)

These circumstances make the Chanukah story look less like a heroic epic, and more like real life. In fact, it could even start to resemble elements in our lives, and that makes it very hard to look at indeed. While we don't need to lose the fun aspects of the Chanukah celebration, we shouldn't forget what went into making the occasion one to commemorate, and we should rededicate ourselves to these principles.

— Leslie Bergson  
Chair, Ritual Committee

## Shanti Benefit Concert

*Special guest appearance by the Hallel Brothers!*

On Tuesday, December 11, at 8:30 p.m., a unique holiday season cabaret to benefit the Shanti Project will be held at the 1177 Club, Gramercy Towers, 1177 California Street in San Francisco. The event will feature performances by several local artists, including Pete Johnson, Tom Anderson, Lise-Marie Thomas and Michael Ashton, all of "Beach Blanket Babylon" fame. You can look forward to a special guest appearance by our own Hallel Brothers: Harvey Bartnof, Jonathan Funk and Eric Keitel. Seating will be limited, so please reserve your tax-deductible \$14.00 tickets by calling 776-2101.

The Shanti Project provides free practical and emotional support to people facing life-threatening illness or bereavement. Since 1982, Shanti has worked primarily with people with AIDS.

## Office Notes

As a member congregation of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, all members of Sha'ar Zahav are entitled to receive a subscription to the UAHC's monthly publication, *Reform Judaism*. This journal is well worth receiving for its many informative articles and essays covering a wide range of topics. Any current member who would like to receive *Reform Judaism* (and who doesn't already), should please contact me for subscription materials. All new members will receive this information as part of the new member information packet.

— Marilyn Hertzberg, Administrator

## New Members Weekend

January 11-13, 1985

- SHABBAT ONEG •  
honoring new members
- NEW MEMBERS' SOCIAL •  
meet Va'ad & Committee Chairs

Look for your invitation  
in the mail!

# Harvey Milk Was Right!

All of us who have seen the recent film on the life and times of Harvey Milk have been deeply moved by it. We feel perhaps a special poignancy and connection with Harvey because he was a member of our Congregation.

In his all too brief time in politics and public life, Harvey taught us two things above all. First, that "coming out" is not the end of the world; often it is the beginning of a world of integrity and honesty and self esteem and joy.

And second, that those of us who are gay cannot do what needs to be done to combat homophobia alone — we have to develop coalitions of people and groups who are as concerned about this pernicious form of bigotry as we are, and who are eager to work with us to eliminate it. Homophobia, anti-semitism, racism, sexism — all are cut from the same cloth. And until all forms of discrimination are eliminated, none of us is fully free.

We've done a lot of coalition building and networking in Sha'ar Zahav; I think Harvey would be proud of us!

We recognized from the beginning that as gay and lesbian Jews our natural allies were other gay people and other Jews. Within the Jewish community we've worked mainly, though by no means exclusively, with Reform rabbis and lay leaders. We also have some very good friends who are Conservative, including Rabbi Ted Alexander and the members of Congregation B'Nai Emunah. And when David Forbes and I went to Beth Shalom one Shabbat morning, Rabbi Saul White, of blessed memory, welcomed us warmly and offered us aliyot.

Nonetheless, the networking really began in earnest when we joined the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, and the results have been phenomenal, both locally and nationally.

Rabbi Leonard Schoolman, Director of Program (the equivalent of vice president of the UAHC, just below Rabbi Schindler) has worked with us to prepare educational materials on Judaism and homosexuality which are accurate and sensitive and which reflect contemporary theological and scientific thinking. He appointed a member of our Congregation to the Biennial Planning Committee and encouraged us to offer a symposium on Judaism and homosexuality at the Biennial next October in Los Angeles.

Locally, we've been much involved with the Presidents' Council, a group compos-

ed of the leadership of Reform congregations in the Bay Area. From that association have come invitations to speak at other congregations, and the appointment of our former president, Cheryl Orvis, to a committee assisting congregations with administrative difficulties. From the friendships we've made on the Council has come the permanent loan of a Torah from Temple Beth Israel-Judea. At all times we've been treated with the dignity and respect we deserve, and we've learned much from each other.

The local Jewish agencies have been eager to learn how they can be responsive to the needs of their gay and lesbian clients, and for the past three years our former recorder Aaron Cooper has been meeting and consulting with them.

Through the efforts of Rabbi Gary Greenebaum, a workshop on counseling gay and lesbian Jewish college students was held at the National Hillel Directors Convention at Grossingers (the Pearl of the Catskills), New York last December. A member of our Congregation was one of the participants and panelists, and has since been appointed to the Hillel Board of Directors here in San Francisco.

Rabbi Greenebaum, who is on the local board of the Anti-Defamation League, encouraged that organization to condemn in the strongest terms all forms of violence against gay men and women. It's the first ADL chapter to do so, and it is hoped that

the national board will follow suit.

A number of rabbis in the Bay Area are now speaking out against "gay bashing" in San Francisco and elsewhere. They are doing so because they are men and women of compassion and understanding, and because we and our friends in Ahavat Shalom made it a point to get to know them and to tell them what our concerns and problems are.

A year ago the *Jewish Bulletin* barely admitted our existence. Joe Montana and Russ Francis and the entire defensive line of the '49ers could have converted to Judaism and joined Sha'ar Zahav, and the *Bulletin* would have printed the news, if at all, on page 48, just below the ad for Shenson's gefilte fish!

Things are very different now. There have been a number of good articles about gay Jews, the best of which was Ira Kamin's beautiful piece on the life and death of Mark Feldman. That change came about because members of both congregations were willing to talk with the new editor and his staff, and because they were willing to listen and to learn. We won't always agree with the editorial positions of the *Bulletin*; now and again they will print a letter from an old grouch who suggests we go fly a kite — preferably far away from here. But that's fine. We know our positions will be printed accurately and fairly; that's the most — and the least — we can ask of a newspaper.

(Continued on page 10)

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## Play It Again, Vladimir

People passing by our synagogue on Friday evenings will now often hear a new, wonderful sound coming from the building: a piano! Thanks to the kind generosity of member Russell Kassman, we can now enjoy piano music and/or accompaniment at our services and other functions. Russell is the owner of R. Kassman Piano & Organ Stores in San Francisco and Oakland.

The piano, an Everett upright, arrived in time so that we were able to inaugurate it at the Congregational Meeting on November 4, with a short piano and vocal recital to show off the piano.

Our thanks to Russell for this valuable contribution to our synagogue.

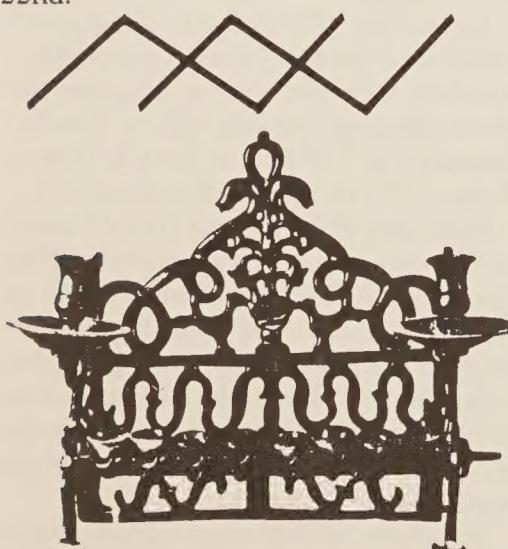
## Chanukah Bash

(Continued from page 1)

a major fundraising effort for Sha'ar Zahav, and all members and friends of CSZ are urged to support his effort. Raffle tickets were sent out with last month's *Forward*; anyone who needs additional books should call the office or pick them up after Friday night services.

Shirley Liberman is heading the large and enthusiastic committee which is planning the event. Additional members are always needed and welcomed to the committee; anyone interested in working on our Chanukah Celebration should contact Shirley through the synagogue office.

Happy Chanukah, and see you all on the 22nd!



Brass lamp from Poland, 18th century, with snake motif. Tel Aviv, Einhorn Collection.

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## Education Committee

### Lecture Series Begins

Sha'ar Zahav's educational programming for the year will begin in January with the inaugural lecture in our new lecture series. On Tuesday evening, January 29, 8 p.m., Guest Lecturer Richard Beatty will be speaking on "The Homosexual Experience during the Holocaust." Please mark this date now for what promises to be an informative evening.

The series continues with lectures being scheduled in February, March and May on the following topics: Jewish Mysticism, Sephardic Jewry and Jewish Feminism. In addition, the Education Committee is organizing a 12-week Book Circle (meeting every other week) which will begin in early February. We hope to have more details on both these programs in the next issue of *The Forward*.

The Education Committee will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, December 12 at 7 p.m. in the synagogue. Anyone interested is welcome. We urge your input into this vital function of our congregation.

— Kathi Isserman, Chair

## Radio Fruit Punch

As part of their holiday programming, KPFA's "Fruit Punch" show will have a special Chanukah program on Wednesday, December 19. Fruit Punch is a talk/call-in show with programming aimed at the Bay Area's gay community. Representatives from Sha'ar Zahav and Ahavat Shalom will be the guests for this show. So wherever you will be on the evening of December 19, plan on tuning into KPFA 94.1 FM at 10 p.m. and giving our representatives some moral support.

## New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our Congregation gained several new members in November. A warm welcome to:

Rick Crane  
Lisa Marie Daniel  
David Glassberg  
Arlene Hoffman  
Ed Leven  
Margaret Livingston  
Sally Elizabeth Martin  
Paul Schwartz

New members are welcomed and honored at Friday night services on the last Friday of the month. By making them feel a part of our family, we can all help to show our new members that they have a valuable place at Sha'ar Zahav.

## Oneg Sponsors

During the month of October, Friday night Onegs were sponsored by the following generous persons:

October 5 — The Congregation  
October 12 — Michael Chreisman, in honor of all that is Sha'ar Zahav  
October 19 — The Va'ad, to welcome Marilyn Hertzberg as our administrator  
October 26 — Helen Howard & Gwen Schwartz, to express their love for us.

All you have to do to sponsor an Oneg is to think of the occasion and contact Peter Abinanti at 441-0276 or at an Oneg or leave a message at the Synagogue office (861-6932). The cost of sponsoring an Oneg is \$50 (partial sponsorship available) or you can also provide the food, flowers, etc. for a more personal touch.

## Not a Lone Survivor

In Lincoln Park, on November 7, a memorial sculpture by George Segal was dedicated to the 6 million killed during the Holocaust. This is a commissioned piece of art that gathered controversy starting with the inception of the idea, and has maintained controversy throughout all the developmental stages.

As a Jew interested in "art", I was excited to see the work: a life-sized tableau of a pile of bodies strewn haphazardly on top of each other, with one lone, standing man, staring away — through a barbed wire fence. Knowing this much of the plot forewarned me that this would not be my usual Sunday afternoon at the Palace of Legion of Honor to look at artistic beauty and enjoy the scenery, but I felt ready.

So, after the 49ers won an early game, on went my Jewish hat and my art-critic hat, and off I went to the park for a little culture. Approaching the site from behind, one first sees the commemorative plaque on a wall rising above the concrete pit in which the sculpture is situated. "Never again" always brings a lump. From that position, I looked down into the sculpture, onto the bodies, and had thoughts about the meaning of the large man in the back of the scene; thoughts about techniques in

plaster casting; thoughts consisting of intellectual self-banter. I did notice a man walking around the white plaster figures, but didn't give all that much thought as to why this man, dressed in a yellow and black slicker, pants, and boots was stepping over the figures looking very busy.

Then I walked around to the front — to where I stood, as did the lone survivor, facing barbed wire. I also stood facing words that had been spray painted on the wall — "Is this necessary?" What I also had not seen before (because of my desire to "see the piece") was the black and yellow paint that the man in the black and yellow slicker was trying to remove from the heads of the figures. We "art lovers" watched as the man went about, using chemicals and a pressure water hose, and the realization suddenly hit me that someone had already violated this 4-day old memorial. And I was shocked. As the water from the hose ran around my feet, the armchair art critic and intellectual woman of logic and reason became an emotional Jew whose insides twisted up and who continued the question of why. Why us? Why now? Why then? Why? Why? Was this life imitating art, or art imitating life?

Now, much later, when my thinking has

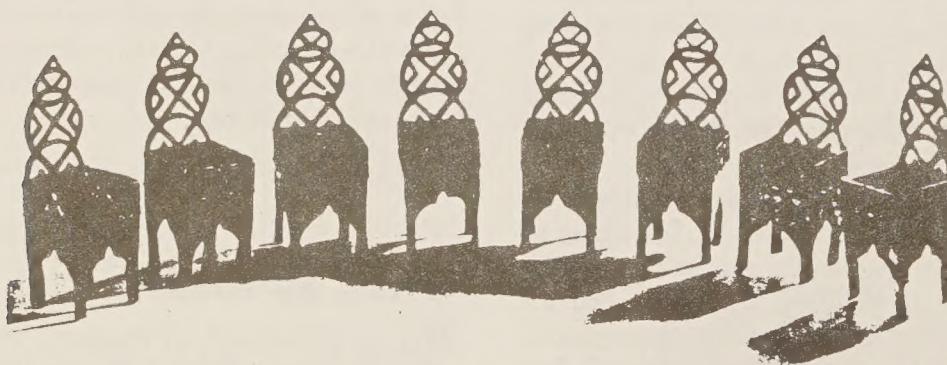
once again taken over from my pure feeling, I realize that the only shocking thing was that I can still be shocked.

The controversy around what constitutes art obviously had nothing to do with the "vandalism". As a wonderfully sardonic letter to the editor of the Chronicle said, this act was not perpetrated by a roving band of rabid art critics. It wasn't even a hate statement. It was more a statement of "Come on now, folks, let's forget all this nastiness. After all, it's over. Be good sports. If you must erect a memorial, at least make it pretty. I mean, really, is this necessary?"

I find that worse than hate. Hate is something you can sense, and grab, and fight. This insidious intellectualization is more dangerous.

"Is this necessary?" As long as anyone can still ask the question, there is no need to answer. Seeing it scrawled on the wall that day symbolized for me the reason that we must never forget; the reason that, specific religions aside, humankind must always realize its own potential for inhumanity, and make "never again" a continuous, unrelenting, and universal cry.

— Stephanie Hannaford



Tin lamp from Germany, 19th century, in the form of little chairs. A chair was probably added each day of the festival. Jerusalem, Sir Isaac

and Lady Wolfson Museum in Hechal Shlomo.

## Rabbi To Speak

Rabbi Robert Kirschner, Associate Rabbi of Temple Emanu-El in San Francisco will be giving a guest sermon at our services on Friday evening, December 14. Many readers will remember Rabbi Kirschner's sermon on the Jewish response to attacks on gay men and women, which was printed in the October issue of *The Forward*. Services that Shabbat will be led by Mike Rankin.

## New Chairs and Tables

Following a Va'ad decision to purchase 36 new folding chairs for overflow seating and 3 folding tables for use in the Sanctuary and throughout the building, the entire cost was covered by generous contributions from both Mike Rankin and the Estate of Duff Kreitzberg. Thanks to Mike, Isabel Fishman, Rose Stolowitz and Florence Chisholm can each claim a chair of their own whenever they visit us.

## Women's Havurah

"Havurah" means (something like) camaraderie... We come together now and again to talk and laugh, jump into friends' hot tubs, try to eat impossible amounts of food, and generally celebrate that we women number over seventy-strong in Sha'ar Zahav.

The Women's Havurah is brimming with events and ideas for the coming months — we all look forward to an exciting year. The next planning meeting will be Tuesday, January 8 at 7:30 p.m. at Joyce & Diana's home, 73 Fountain St., San Francisco.

Since over 85% of us are Trivial Pursuit addicts (you know who you are) we will be gathering on Thursday, December 13 at 7:30 p.m. in the Oneg Room for an evening of board games and plentiful refreshments. (To women who are new to the congregation, and to women who are not yet members, consider yourselves especially invited.)

In January, we will enjoy a Shabbat eve supper together at the synagogue prior to services. Watch for details in the next *Forward*.

See you on December 13.

# DECEMBER

כטלו - טבת

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						7 Kislev 1 Morning Service 10:30am
8	2	9 Finance Comm. 5:15pm 2865 Jackson#5 Torah Study 7-10pm	3 10	4 11	5 12	6 13
15	9	16 Va'ad Meeting 6:30pm Torah Study 7-10pm Newsletter Deadline	10 17 Shanti Benefit (Hallel Bros.) 1177 California Brotherhood Game Night 7:30pm	11 18 Education Co. 7pm Newsletter Comm. Alex, 431-7541 Soviet Vigil Green & Baker	12 19 Women's Havurah 7:30pm	13 20
22	16	23 Torah Study 7-10pm	17 24 Chanukah 1st Candle (evening)	18 25 Chanukah 2nd Candle "Fruit Punch" KPFA 10pm	19 26 Chanukah 3rd Candle	20 27 Chanukah 4th Candle
29	23	30 Chanukah 6th Candle	24 1 Teveth Chanukah 7th Candle Rosh Chodesh I	25 2 8th Day of Chanukah	26 3 Ritual Co. 6:30pm 631 O'Farrell, Fl.2 Newsletter Mailing 431-7541	27 4 28
6	30	7	31			5 29 Morning Service 10:30am

## December Ritual Calendar

### Saturday, December 1

Saturday Morning Service, 10:30 a.m.  
Leslie Bergson, Services

### Friday, December 7

Parshah: Va-Yishlach, Gen.  
32:4-36:43

Haftarah: Hosea 11:7-12:12  
Eric Keitel and Susan Unger,  
Services

### Friday, December 14

Parshah: Va-Yeshev, Gen. 37:1-40:23

Haftarah: Amos 2:6-3:8

Mike Rankin, Services  
Rabbi Robert Kirschner, Guest  
Sermon

### Friday, December 21

Chanukah, Fourth Candle

Parshah: Miketz, Gen. 41:1-44:17

Special Chanukah Parshah: Num.  
7:30-35

Special Haftarah: Zechariah 2:14-4:7  
Ritual Committee and Friends,  
Services

### Friday, December 28

Parshah: Va-Yigash, Gen.  
44:18-47:27

Haftarah: Ezekiel 37:15-28  
Garry Koenigsberg, Services  
The Torah will be read.

### Saturday, December 29

Saturday Morning Service, 10:30 a.m.  
Eric Keitel, Services

## January Preview

### Friday, January 4

Parshah: Va-Y'hi, Gen. 47:28-50:26

Haftarah: I Kings 2:1-12

Leslie Bergson and Cheryl Orvis,  
Services



Back panel of a lamp from Italy, 16th century, with the coat of arms of Cardinal Acquaviva in the center, supported by two cherubs and with a tasseled cardinal's hat above. Paris, M. Kugel Collection.

Friday night services begin at 8:15 in the sanctuary of our synagogue, located at 220 Danvers at Caselli in San Francisco.

## Social Action

### AIDS Food Drive Continues

Our food and household items drive (which is still searching for a snappier name) to assist the related efforts of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation is continuing. When you come to services on Friday evening, plan on bringing some canned or dry foods, or some household or toiletries to leave in the collection box in the Oneg Room.

As Allan Berenstein reported to the Congregation at services on November 9, our donations are greatly needed and appreciated. He was told that in addition to standard food items, some items that are particularly useful — and often not thought of — are the various toiletries and household items which are not covered by food stamps and various condiments to go with basic foodstuffs. Please keep this simple but important *tzedakah* in mind when doing your regular shopping, and make this helpful donation a part of your Shabbat ritual.

### Vigil for Soviet Jewry

Sha'ar Zahav is continuing to work with the Bay Area Council on Soviet Jewry to maintain a protest vigil in front of the Soviet Consulate at Green and Baker. Our time slot is the second Wednesday of each month from 11:30 a.m. to noon. Placards are provided. The dates for the next two months are:

Wednesday, December 12, 11:30 a.m. to noon

Wednesday, January 9, 11:30 a.m. to noon

— Ron Lezell, Chair  
Social Action Committee

### Prizes

(Continued from page 1)

Noble Pies; a framed print from Designer's Frame & Pictures; a nutritional evaluation from the Good Provider; and CHOCOLATE TRUFFLES!

Tickets are available for a \$2 donation, with a book of six going for \$10. Donation not required to win. Call the synagogue office if you need more books, or pick them up at Friday night services. Return completed stubs with donation to the office or turn them in on Friday evening in the special box in the Oneg Room.

### Blood Drive Update

As reported in last month's *Forward*, the Women's Chavurah High Holy Days Blood Drive on September 29 was very successful with 31 donors appearing on that day. Unfortunately, that article omitted the names of Susan Ganz, Diane Kuchins, Marilyn O'Keeffe and Rhona Rosenberg in the list of donors — our thanks to them as well.

And for more good news, that Blood Drive has been even more successful, since during the month of October eight more donors came into the Irwin Memorial Blood Bank and added to our Congregation's account. We don't have the names of those additional donors, but our thanks to them for their support of our blood bank account.

All donations are credited to Sha'ar Zahav's account for a year and are available to Members and Friends of the Congregation. At the end of the year, credits for those pints are transferred to specified local hospitals, where they are earmarked for use by AIDS patients. If you are able to give blood, please consider helping our blood bank account — throughout the year, or again as part of the Spring Blood Drive sponsored by the Women's Chavurah.

### Calendar for 5745

#### January 1985

Mon 14 Va'ad Meeting  
Tue 29 Lecture:  
Homosexual Experience  
During the Holocaust —  
Richard Beatty

#### February 1985

Wed 6 Tu B'Shevat  
Mon 11 Va'ad Meeting  
Fri 22-Sun 24 UAHC No. Cal. Biennial  
Dunfey Hotel, San Mateo  
Sun 24 JWF Telethon

#### March 1985

Wed 6 Purim Service  
Sat 9 Megillah Madness III  
Mon 11 Va'ad Meeting

#### April 1985

Fri 5 Passover  
Sat 6 Congregational Seder  
Mon 8 Va'ad Meeting  
Fri 12 Yom HaShoah Service  
Thu 18 Yom HaShoah  
Wed 24 Yom HaZikaron  
Thu 25 Yom Ha'Atzmaut

#### May 1985

Sun 5 Congregational Meeting  
(Tentative date, elections)  
Thu 9 Lag Ba'Omer  
Mon 13 Va'ad Meeting  
Sat 25 Erev Shavuot Service

#### June 1985

Thu 6-Sun 9 9th Int'l Conference of Gay & Lesbian Jews, Washington, D.C.  
Mon 10 Va'ad Meeting  
Sun 23 Gay/Lesbian Freedom Day Parade

#### July 1985

Mon 8 Va'ad Meeting  
Sun 28 Tisha B'Av

#### August 1985

Mon 12 Va'ad Meeting  
Sun 18 Castro Street Fair

#### September 1985

Mon 16 Rosh Hashanah 5746

### Classified Ads

NU NU NOE VALLEY! Where to get CHANUKAH CARDS and Party Supplies: CHURCH STREET FAIRE, 1139 Church at 24th, 824-7888.

SEASHELL CREATIONS by Marilyn Hertzberg at Nihomachi Arts/Crafts Fair, Dec. 1-2, 10-5, 2031 Bush St. Call 547-3277 for info.

## Contributions

Sha'ar Zahav welcomes all contributions, of all sizes, to mark any event, and to any of our funds. Contributions will be acknowledged in *The Forward* unless requested otherwise.

Donations were made to Sha'ar Zahav's funds in the past month by the following contributors:

### For the General Fund —

**Elliott Toporek**, in honor of Steve Elman's recovery

**Terry Rothchild**, in honor of Lynn's and her 4th anniversary and the High Holy Days

**Ron Lezell**, in honor of the ritual Committee and the beautiful High Holy Day Services

**D. Gus Arnett**

**Lesbian/Gay Interfaith Alliance**, for the use of our building

**Jerry Mendell**, for Mr. & Mrs. Irving Greenberg, in memory of their son Jay Greenberg

**Helen Dannenberg**, in honor of the High Holy Days

**Cheryl Orvis**, in honor of Bob Mackey on the occasion of his Bar Mitzvah

(See also the separate article listing general High Holy Day contributors.)

### For the Building Fund —

**Harvey Bartnof**, in honor of the 65 Manchester Ironing Campaign

**Elliott Toporek**, in honor of Alex & David's move to their new home

**Lonny Darwin**, in honor of Jerry Rosenstein

### For the Library Fund —

**Eric Keitel & Aaron Cooper**, in honor of Catherine Wisniewski's birthday; Mazel Tov to Leslie Bergson on her new job; in honor of Allan Berenstein's birthday

### For the Prayerbook Fund —

**Steve Greenberg**, for the Ritual Committee's being a great committee and for the High Holy Days

### For the Torah Fund —

**Herman Siegel**, for his niece Sharon Katz, in memory of her aunt Edith Siegel

**Steve Rosenberg**, in honor of the Ritual Committee and their beautiful High Holy Day services

**Eric Keitel & Aaron Cooper**, in honor of David & Alex's 10th anniversary

## December Birthdays!

4	Alan Schrager
11	Abraham Cohen
12	Ralph Frischman
12	Walt Leiss
14	Jill Rose
15	Ron Lezell
19	Don Albert
19	Sharon Silverstein
25	G. Murray Miller
26	Rich Estrelita
29	Naomi Pless
30	Michael Abts
30	Leslie Bergson
30	Michael Chreisman
31	Sam Thal

## Remember

to keep us up to date.  
If you've moved, changed  
your name, have a new  
phone number, or wish to  
add a listing to our  
yahrzeit or anniversary  
records, please call or  
write the synagogue  
office.

## Falasha Photo Exhibit

A photographic essay on the Jews of Ethiopia entitled *Ethiopia to Zion: Journey of the Beta Yisroel* will open on Sunday, December 9, at the Jewish Community Library at 601 14th Avenue (corner of Balboa) in San Francisco. Jointly sponsored by the Jewish Community Relations Council and the Friends of the Jewish Community Library, the exhibit features large color photos of Ethiopian Jews at work, families, children in absorption centers and members of families separated by emigration restrictions. A catalog accompanying the exhibit explains the customs and the current situation — both in Ethiopia and Israel — of this historic Ethiopian Jewish community.

Unfortunately, the exhibit will run for two weeks only — until December 20. The Library is open on Sunday, Monday and Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Tuesday and Thursday from noon to 8 p.m. For more information, call the Library at 751-6983.

## December Yahrzeits

1	(7 Kislev) Maurice Osser, Father of Gordon Osser
4	Ida Margolin Margolis, Grandmother of Paul Margolis
5	(11 Kislev) Frank Chesir, Father of Daniel Chesir
5	(11 Kislev) Louis Resnick, Grandfather of Mark Resnick
5	Charles Staub, Grandfather of Wendy Weiss
9	Frieda Shaber, Mother of David Shaber
10	David Abbuehl, Cousin of Abigail Abbuehl
10	Bess Benderoff, Mother of Bart Benderoff
10	Madeleine Feinberg, Aunt of Carole Migden
10	Sherman Kalis, Brother of Betty Kalis
13	Barbara Mendelow, Sister of Mark Mendelow
14	Paula Kallman Meyer, Grandmother of Nancy Meyer
15	(21 Kislev) Sara Wouk, Grandmother of Nina Wouk
16	David Goldware, Grandfather of Robert Goldware
20	Lillian Dolinsky, Grandmother of Naomi Baran
20	Norman David Kramer, Member of Sha'ar Zahav
20	Fred M. Weiss, Grandfather of Wendy Weiss
23	Harold Berger, Father of Don Berger
24	Rheinhold Tolge, Grandfather of Diana Buchbinder
25	A. Martin Lipschutz, Father of Marc Lipschutz
27	Lillian Helen Abbuehl, Grandmother of Abigail Abbuehl
30	Bayla Schneidman, Sister of Daniel Chesir
31	Annie Hoyt Hughes, Mother of John P. Hughes III
31	John P. Hughes II, Father of John P. Hughes III

Note: Yahrzeits will be read at services on the Friday preceding the Yahrzeit date.

**POSITION AVAILABLE:** For a special person who would like to coordinate distribution of classy newsletter for popular gay/lesbian synagogue. Work with an established, able staff, 1-2 nights a month. On-the-job training available. For more info, call Alex Ingersoll (431-7541) or Bob Goldware (928-3370).

## So Ask Aunt Yente

Dear Aunt Yente,

What is the symbolism of the latkes we eat on Chanukah?

Irving on Irving

Dear Irving,

When your Aunt Yente was just a little woman, it was, in all the shtetles of Europe, understood that you hadn't properly celebrated any holiday until you had eaten so much long-chain fatty acids that you could plotz. Aunt Yente and other modern Jews try to follow the spirit of the tradition, while cutting down on the cholesterol.

Ah, but why latkes, you ask. So why not latkes, Aunt Yente answers. The official explanation for eating latkes is that these pancakes, fried in oil, recall the miracle of the oil that lasted for eight days that we celebrate on chanukah. If this seems not terribly meaningful, Aunt Yente suggests you should create your own symbols. If you can't eat nice, crispy latkes on chanukah without dreying your Aunt Yente's kup for symbolic meanings, still, why should she do all the work? Better she should eat your latkes while you come up with the explanation. You might, for example, try one like this: the potatoes with which we make the latkes are rough and brown on the outside but starchy on the inside, which symbolizes the Jewish people, who have curly brown hair but possess inner strength.

If Aunt Yente is getting a little silly, she apologizes. But some things you enjoy without worrying about. If you had asked Aunt Yente why we light an increasing number of Chanukah candles each night, she could have told you that we follow the ruling of Hillel, who said that in matters of holiness and rejoicing we must always increase. If you had asked if you could light your menorah on your kitchen table, Aunt Yente would have gotten a chance to explain that the menorah must be placed in a window or outside doorway, in order to "Pirsoom haneis" — advertise the miracle. On this point your Aunt Yente could even have waxed interpretive, and said how Chanukah is a wonderful time for gay people to come out ("kim arein", as we said in the old country), to advertise the miracle of who they are and how wonderful God has made them.

But from latkes you have to ask her? Listen — as a good Viennese friend of Aunt Yente would have said if you had asked him, sometimes a latke is just a latke.

Aunt Yente

Dear Aunt Yente,

Isn't Sha'ar Zahav a gay synagogue? Can straight people come to Sha'ar Zahav services?

Suspicious in the Sunset

Dear Suspicious,

Aunt Yente is not sure she understands your question. What, she wonders, is a gay synagogue — a synagogue that is attracted to other synagogues (as opposed to, maybe, churches)? Straight people also she doesn't think she knows; the people she meets always seem to have curves in various places. (Aunt Yente herself is getting far too curvy, but she has promised to do something about it just after the latkes on Chanukah. See previous letter.)

Oy — but wait! Maybe you're asking, can non-gay people come? In that case, the answer is easy — of course! Many of our members and regular worshippers are not gay, and while this one and that one are the relatives or the friends of this other one who is gay (you remember him), we also have plenty non-gay people who simply enjoy Sha'ar Zahav as their shul.

It is true, Sha'ar Zahav's liturgy tries to meet specific needs of gay people; but you know what? Those needs are not so different from the non-gay people. We still have one or two prayers which seem to identify *all* the worshippers as gay, but these we're trying to get rid of, and we change them a little bit as we read them from the

bimah. On the other hand, honoring gay people who are elsewhere forgotten is something we should all be able to do without worrying about it.

It would be very uncomfortable to come to a synagogue which assumes that there's only one kind of sexuality in the congregation, so of course no modern synagogue would do this.

Aunt Yente

Aunt Yente will answer all your questions about Jewish law and ritual matters. Just write to Aunt Yente in care of *The Forward*, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, CA 94114. Only a limited number of questions can be answered in *The Forward*, so if you want a personal answer, please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope. All materials © 1984 Congregation Sha'ar Zahav.

## Brotherhood Rematch

In response to requests from many of the men of the Congregation who attended the Brotherhood's first game night on October 30, the Brotherhood will be sponsoring another Game Night at the shul on Tuesday evening, December 11, beginning at 7:30. Bring your favorite game (last month's winner was Trivial Pursuit) to this second of what is destined to become a traditional monthly evening of games and gossip. Coffee and dessert will be provided. A contribution of \$1 is asked to cover expenses.

## Harvey Milk

(Continued from page 4)

And of course our work with the Council for Soviet Jewry, the American Association for Ethiopian Jews, and the Jewish Federation is ongoing and publicly acknowledged.

Harvey, when you and we battled the Briggs Amendment, that awful bill that would have deprived so many of us of our right to earn a living in our chosen professions, we pretty much fought alone. It's not like that now.

If, God forbid, a similar situation should arise, we'll have allies we didn't have back in 1978. We've forged the links, built the coalitions, established the networks you wanted. And you old Congregation, all 200 of us, have been in the vanguard!

Somehow, old friend, I think you know that.

— Mike Rankin

Help with our  
Chanukah Fundraising

Buy Raffle Tickets,  
Sell Raffle Tickets!

Drawing held  
December 22  
at our

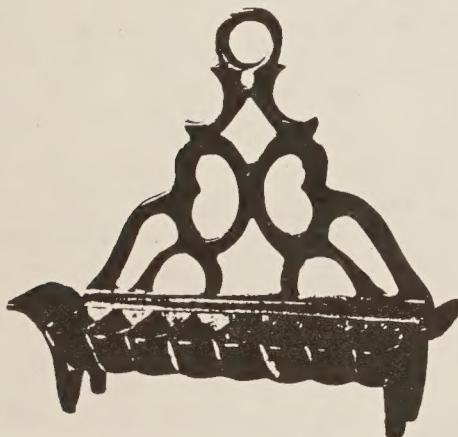
**CHANUKAH  
BASH**

1st Prize:  
San Diego Weekend  
Courtesy of Westwind Travel

## Chanukah Exhibition at JCM

A collection of fine arts and crafts by outstanding Jewish artists will be on display at SF's new Jewish Community Museum. While the exhibition includes contemporary oils, sculpture, lithographs and watercolors, the emphasis is on such Judaica as menorahs, dreidls, ketubot, tallesim and mezuzahs, as well as antique ceramics from Israel and photographs, papercuts and jewelry. All 125 objects are for sale, with price ranging from \$30 to \$1000.

"Chanukah Exhibition '84" runs until December 9 only. The Jewish Community Museum, located in the Jewish Community Federation building at 121 Steuart Street, is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday through Friday. For more information, call 543-8880.



Brass lamp from Poland, 17th century, with arabesque back wall indicating Spanish origin. The legs were added in order to place the lamp on a windowsill. Tel Aviv, Einhorn Collection.

## Chanukah in Berkeley

The Bay Area Reconstructionist Havurah will hold a Chanukah celebration on Thursday evening, December 20, 8 p.m., at La Pena, 3105 Shattuck Avenue in Berkeley (near the Ashby BART station). The evening's program will include the screening of the film "Falasha: Exile of the Black Jews" (1983, 30 min.) — the acclaimed documentary on the besieged Ethiopian Jews. There will also be a concert and group singing with Shana Winokur, who has performed traditional Sephardi and Askenazi songs to enthusiastic audiences at La Pena and the Magnes Museum, among other places. Admission is \$3.50 at the door. For information call Shana at 655-7776.

## High Holy Day Contributors

I have just moved to the Bay Area and this is the first time I have attended a synagogue like Sha'ar Zahav. I have been so moved by the experience. It's the first time in my life that my lesbian identity and my Jewish identity have co-existed in the same place — and that place being a synagogue, fills me with joy and thanks.

This was one person's response to experiencing the High Holy Days with Sha'ar Zahav. We are deeply gratified by the many such warm messages we received. Our treasurer, David Stein, is also deeply gratified by the response to the High Holy Day appeals. Once again, the contributions covered the substantial expenses the Congregation incurs in offering our services to the community. In addition to those who are thanked in our regular Contributors column, thanks to the following for their generosity:

Charles Solomon  
Miriam Greenberg and David Orner  
Ritz Cahn  
Paul Matzner  
Sylvia Straus  
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Rosefeld  
Donald I. Abrams  
Martin Kupferman  
Randall Heilbrunn  
Suse Mayal  
Harold Podgur  
Sarah Hannaford  
Lynda Kravitz  
John Golebowski  
Joyce Amburgey and Cindy Schorr  
Nina Wexelman  
Sen Talley  
Sue Carol Witt  
Sam Thal  
Dorothy Kimmel  
Alan Gottlieb  
Eleanor Isaacson  
Dana Vinicoff  
Laura Lowe  
Nina Kaiser  
Lainey Feingold  
Carol Fiul  
Joel Perlstein  
Benjamin Schalit  
Elliott Toporek  
Steven Cronenwalt  
N. Paul Schwartz  
Steve Sherman  
Steven Strickberger  
Roy Simon  
Jonathan Schwartz  
Dara Schur  
Amy Schlifftmen  
Wendy Rouder  
D.K. Rubin  
Sharone Abramowitz and Nadine Rosenthal  
Michele Popiel  
Jennie Schacht  
Mark Musin  
Howard Okorofsky  
Susan Jacobs  
Ellen Lewin  
Susie Hara  
Joel Nathan  
Ceril Lisbon  
Carol J. Cohen  
Sharon and Ron Chortack  
Adam Block  
Marsha Blachman  
Sandra Blair  
Jerome Singer and Den Dodge  
Arnold Grossman  
Sara Groisser  
Ruth Goldstein  
Jan Goodman and Sheila Khalov  
Jeanne Fisher  
Eileen Dunn  
Mark Drusin  
Lonny Darwin  
James Bernstein  
Paul Bodner  
Leslie Bonett  
Marilyn Braiger  
Andrea Bryck  
Linda Gebroe  
Beatrice Gilbert  
Howard Lader  
B. Scott Levine  
Ellen Mack  
Senator and Mrs. Milton Marks  
Susan Musincant  
Rhona Rosenberg  
Harley Shapiro  
Natalie Zarchin  
Allan Gold  
Roy and Grace Unger  
Sandra Baer  
Deborah Mathers

Additional contributors will be acknowledged in the January Forward. Our thanks to all those who gave to Sha'ar Zahav in appreciation of our High Holy Day services, and our apologies to any contributor whose name we have inadvertently omitted.

# Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

שַׁעַר זָהָב



220 Danvers at Caselli  
San Francisco, California 94114  
(415) 861-6932

MEMBER, UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS

## Officers:

President, Leila Raim  
Vice President, Don Albert  
Treasurer, David Stein  
Recorder, Mark Mendelow

## Va'ad (Board) Members:

Allan Berenstein  
Leslie Bergson  
Alex Ingersoll  
Allyce Kimerling  
Garry Koenigsberg  
Ron Lezell  
Cheryl Orvis  
Jerry Rosenstein  
Sharyn Saslafsky

## Administrator:

Marilyn Hertzberg  
The Synagogue Office is open Tuesday and Wednesday, 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and Thursday and Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. At other times, please leave a phone message.

## Committee Chairs:

Bikur Cholim, Rabbi Ben Marcus  
Building, David Gellman  
Bylaws, David Gass  
Education, Kathi Isserman  
Finance, Tom Rothgiesser  
Membership, Allan Berenstein  
Newsletter, Alex Ingersoll  
Oneg, Peter Abinanti  
Public Relations, Sharyn Saslafsky  
Rabbi Search, Aaron Cooper and  
Leila Raim  
Ritual, Leslie Bergson  
Social Action, Ron Lezell  
Women's Chavurah, Allyce  
Kimerling  
Coordinator of Social Activities,  
Judah Katz

**Emergency Number:** In an emergency situation, the Congregation can be contacted outside of office hours by calling 864-0475 between 7:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m.

## Data Managers:

Alita Rosenfeld  
Jerry Rosenstein

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is located in the Upper Market District of San Francisco at 220 Caselli at Danvers, which is one block south of the intersection of 18th & Market Streets. By public transport, take MUNI bus no. 33 (Ashbury line) to 18th & Danvers and walk one block south on Danvers to Caselli.

Services are held every Friday evening beginning at 8:15 p.m., with an Oneg Shabbat following services. Services are generally held on the last Saturday of each month at 10:30 a.m. – check calendar for each month.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is a member of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

## Va'ad Report

Last month's Va'ad Meeting was held at the shul on November 12. Leila announced in her report to the Va'ad that past-president Mike Rankin will be joining the Executive Committee. Leila also announced that she will present this year's Election Committee to the Va'ad for approval in December. At that time we will also begin discussing the possibility of a float for the Gay Freedom Day Parade. In his Treasurer's Report, David Stein announced that at present, 80% of our income is derived from dues collections and that we have a fairly solid financial base. We have been getting a good response to our requests for contributions from those non-members who would like to receive our newsletter, and donations received from the High Holy Day appeals paid for the cost of renting the space from the Unitarian Center. Ron Lezell then presented an excellent review of the Treasurer's Records including recommendations to be discussed further by the Finance Committee.

The Va'ad continued its discussion of how we can best serve our members while remaining accessible to the general public.

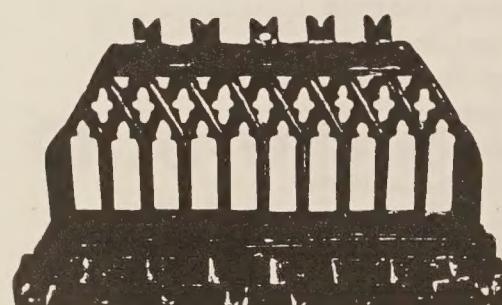
It was decided that this complex issue could best be dealt with in a separate discussion to be scheduled in the near future devoted solely to discussing more complex issues facing our congregation.

**Committee Reports:** The Building Committee is proceeding with plans to install new door and window locks in their effort to improve building security. They are also continuing to review proposals for the renovation of the upstairs of the building and have begun to discuss ideas for the

renovation of the Bimah. Cheryl Orvis presented an update of the Rabbi Search Committee's current plans to review two new applications and begin a new advertising campaign. The Newsletter Committee is actively working to strengthen its functioning as a committee and better spread their workload. The Membership Committee presented eight new members to be voted into the congregation and will soon be announcing plans for this year's new member function.

The Va'ad voted to donate \$180 from the Congregational Discretionary Fund to the Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Community Federation for famine relief in Ethiopia. The Va'ad also voted to dedicate a pushke in the near future to Ethiopian relief. We now have 77 units in our synagogue's account at Irwin Memorial Blood Bank. Lastly, Allyce Kimerling reviewed the current plans to begin to reactivate the Women's Chavurah. Until next month, this is Mark Mendelow signing off with a Happy Chanukah to all and to all a good light.

— Mark Mendelow, Recorder



Bronze lamp in Gothic style from Spain or southern France, 16th century trefoil arches, quatrefoil windows, and split battlements. Tel Aviv, Einhorn Collection.



Congregation Sha'ar Zahav



# CHANUKAH PARTY

**Date:** December 22

**Time:** 8:00 pm

**Place:** 250 Masonic  
between Turk & Anza  
S.F. Medical Society Building

*Festivities include Entertainment, Live Music, Dancing, Food (latkes & more), Drink and the Raffle Drawing!*

*Bring your Chanukah Menorah for a congregational lighting.*

## CHANUKAH RAFFLE

**1st Prize:** San Diego weekend for two  
(courtesy of Westwind Travel)

**2nd Prize:** \$250 Gift Certificate –  
City Island Clothing

**3rd Prize:** Weekend for two at  
the Claremont Resort

**4th Prize:** Russian River cabin for a week

**and many other prizes!**

**TICKETS:** \$2.00 donation – book of 6 for \$10.00

Tickets are available through the synagogue office (861-6932) or  
after Friday night services. Donation not required to win.

